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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/820,038	04/08/2004	Yuji Izumi	04329.3303	7586

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EXAMINER

BLOUNT, ERIC

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2636	

DATE MAILED: 02/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/820,038

Applicant(s)

IZUMI ET AL.

Examiner

Eric M. Blount

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-7,13-15 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 3,8-12,16 and 17 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 April 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04082004.02152005.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 4, 14, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiura et al [U.S. Patent No. 6,259,406].

Regarding **claim 1**, Sugiura discloses a system for location search of a data processing device (1151) including a wireless communications unit (1154) and a unit to output received radio wave information for location detection (1163) (Figure 11). The system comprises a unit (1155) which acquires the received radio wave information from the data processing device by wireless communications (column 31, lines 18-30); a location detection unit (1503) which calculates position coordinate information to specify a location of the data processing device based on the received radio wave information (column 34, lines 27-36); a region information database (1502, 1505) in which region information is stored to designate a spatial range associated with the position coordinate information (column 34, lines 42-59); a search unit which searches the region information corresponding to the position coordinate information calculated by the location detection unit from the region information database (column 34, lines 7-20). The position detection request takes place at the control station. The control station acts as the search unit when managing personnel issues a request to locate a processing device and the process of finding the device begins.

As for **claim 4**, Sugiura shows a system wherein the region information database stores the region information including space identification information associated with the position coordinate information to identify the spatial range designated by a plane coordinate of two points in a three dimensional space and a region in a vertical direction (Figures 15 and 16).

As for **claim 14**, Sugiura discloses a method of location search of a data processing device (1151) including a wireless communications unit (1154) and a unit to output received radio wave information for location detection (1163) (Figure 11). The method comprises calculating position coordinate information to specify a location of the data processing device based on the received radio wave information acquired from the data processing device by wireless communications (column 34, lines 26-41); and referring to a region information database in which region information is stored to designate a spatial range associated with the position coordinate information, and searching the region information corresponding to the position coordinate information from the region information database (column 34, line 42-column 36, line 12).

As for **claim 18**, Sugiura teaches a method of disposing a schedule information management unit storing schedule information (Figure 15, 1505 and Figure 17) including use time corresponding to the spatial range to judge whether or not the position coordinate information is an error based on the schedule information and correcting the position coordinate information based on the schedule information in a case in which the judgment result is the error (column 36 – column 37, line 39).

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 5-7, 13, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugiura et al as applied to the claims above.

As for **claim 2**, Sugiura discloses that a region information database stores region information including space identification information to specify the spatial range associated with the position coordinate information (see claim 1 above). The space identification information includes a space name allocated to the spatial range and range identification information. The system indicates the same content at a time when a plurality of spatial ranges specified by the different position coordinate information are handled as the same spatial range (figures 11-18 and column 35, lines 13-40). Sugiura does not specifically disclose a range set. However, a skilled artisan would have recognized that a space such as a room would include a plurality of coordinates indicating different positions throughout the room. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have recognized that a range set of positions was obviously present in the invention of Sugiura for distinguishing between rooms.

As for **claims 5 and 15**, Sugiura discloses a system, which manages the location of the data processing device, and means for transferring the position coordinate information calculated by the location detection unit and the region information searched by the search unit to the system (column 20, lines 35-40, column 21, lines 42-50). Sugiura does not specifically disclose

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a computer system. However one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the control station taught by Sugiura was a computer with a display unit.

As for **claim 6**, Sugiura discloses a system, which manages a location of the data processing device (control station) and a means for transferring the position coordinate information and the region information to the system (position information system). The system includes a unit which uses the position coordinate information and the region information to produce display information capable of confirming the location of the data processing device and a display device which displays the display information on a display (column 20, lines 24-39). Sugiura doesn't specifically disclose that the system is a computer. However, one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that a processing device and a display screen were present in the invention of Sugiura. This reasonably appears to meet the limitation of a computer system.

Regarding **claim 7**, Sugiura teaches that a map including the location of the data processing device may be displayed (column 20, lines 35-39).

As for **claim 13**, Sugiura discloses a system comprising a schedule information management unit (1505), which stores schedule information including use time corresponding to the spatial range. The search unit determines uses the position coordinate information along with the schedule information to determine if the position coordinate information is correct (columns 35-37). Sugiura does not specifically disclose that the search unit judges whether a position coordinate is an error. However, Sugiura does show that errors are calculated and coordinate information is used along with known information to determine a correct position of a data processing device. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

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the invention by the applicant that some sort of judgment as to whether or not the position coordinates are correct must take place. Sugiura reasonably appears to meet the limitations of the claim.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 3, 8, 9-12, 16, and 17 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. All cited references disclose location detection systems that were known in the art at the time of the invention by applicant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M. Blount whose telephone number is (571) 272-2973. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

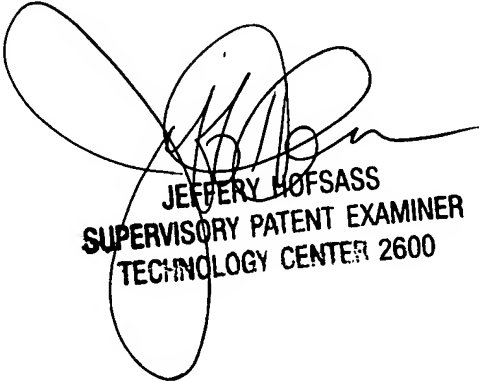
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric M. Blount  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2636

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